

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 2-4 and 7-8, amend claims 11, 5 and 6, and added claims 28-39 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

1. (currently amended) A vacuum packaging machine, comprising:
  - a housing having a cover with a rubber packing attached to a border thereof and an outlet formed therein, and a heater for sealing a vacuum packaging bag;
  - a hood hingedly connected to the housing to selectively open and close a top of the housing, the hood having a rubber packing; and
  - a separation unit communicating with the outlet through a communicating member and connected to a vacuum pump;  
wherein the vacuum packaging machine forms a vacuum through the vacuum pump when the rubber packings of both the hood and the housing come into contact with each other;  
wherein the separation unit comprises an inlet port, an outlet port and a partition configured to couple both the inlet and outlet ports to a sidewall of the housing; and  
wherein the inlet and outlet ports of the separation unit are detachably and selectively coupled to one of a communication pipe and a filter configured to filter out impurities and oil contained in the vacuum packaging bag.
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein the filter means comprises a filter casing, a filter inserted into the filter casing to eliminate the impurities, and a filter casing cover.

6. (currently amended) A vacuum packaging machine, comprising:

a housing having a separation assembly with a rubber packing attached to a border thereof and a heater for sealing a vacuum packaging bag, the separation assembly including a separation assembly casing having an outlet formed therein configured to communicate with a pump, and a cover mounted on the casing and provided with an [outlet] inlet formed in a top surface thereof and a rubber packing; and

a hood hingedly connected to the housing to selectively open and close a top of the housing, the hood having a rubber packing; [and]

wherein the vacuum packaging machine forms a vacuum [[20]] through a pump when the rubber packings of both the hood and the housing come into contact with each other;

wherein the separation assembly is disposed within a depression formed in the housing and is detachable from the housing;

wherein the rubber packing disposed within the cover of the housing is configured such that a plurality of projections are oppositely formed along an inner circumference thereof and channel parts are formed therein at locations where the projections face each other; and

wherein the rubber packing disposed within the hood is configured such that a plurality of holes are formed therein at locations corresponding to the channel parts forming vacuum spaces when the channel parts and the holes come into contact with each other.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (Original) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 6, wherein:

the rubber packing inserted into the cover of the housing is constructed so that a plurality of holes are formed therein; and

the rubber packing inserted into the hood is constructed so that a plurality of each having both side notches by which channel grooves are formed are formed at locations corresponding to

those of the holes in the rubber packing inserted into the cover, so that vacuum spaces can be formed when the holes of the cover and the hood come into contact with each other.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 1, wherein:  
the housing includes at least one catch;  
the hood includes at least one locking hook formed thereon to be locked with the  
catch; and  
the catch pushes the locking hook down, and thus a vacuum is formed in vacuum spaces.

29. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 28, wherein the catch includes a catching bar having a first end held by the housing and a second end operated in conjunction with a stepping motor, and a connection member for connecting the catching bar to a rotation shaft of the stepping motor.

30. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 28, wherein the catch includes two catching bars each having a first end held by the housing and a second end operated in conjunction with a stepping motor, the two catching bars being connected to each other through a fixing portion.

31. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 29, wherein the housing is provided with a stopper, so that the stepping motor stops an operation thereof when the catching bar is locked with the stopper.

32. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 30, wherein the housing is provided with a stopper, so that the stepping motor stops an operation thereof when the catching bar is locked with the stopper.

33. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 1, further comprising a roll cartridge containing a vacuum packaging bag roll, the roll cartridge being attached to a rear wall of the housing.

34. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 33, wherein: the housing includes a locking hole formed therein; and the roll cartridge includes a locking projection formed thereon to be detachable from the locking hole.

35. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 34, wherein the roll cartridge includes a cover mounted thereon to protect the vacuum packaging bag, the cover being rotated around a rotation shaft formed on an outer circumference of the roll cartridge at a predetermined angle.

36. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 35, wherein the cover includes cutting means mounted thereon to allow the vacuum packaging bag to be cut and used in a certain length.

37. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 36, wherein the cover includes a slot formed therein to allow the cutting means to cut the vacuum packaging bag while moving along the slot.

38. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 36, wherein the cutting means includes a cutter, a casing for accommodating the cutter and a handle for allowing the cutter to cut the vacuum packaging bag while moving the cutter along the slot.

39. (newly added) The vacuum packaging machine according to claim 38, wherein the cutting means includes a fastening portion placed below the cutter, thus securely fastening the vacuum packaging bag at the time of cutting operation.